

11/15/73

Dear Phil,

We share tiredness but mine is enjoyable. Yours comes from changing from a night person? Mine from getting out on the warmest November day I can recall, 80°, and eliminating some problems with a large locust I had felled - 180° wrong. Good for me but I feel it, so I'll go to bed earlier because I'll be up by 5 a.m. anyway.

I hope the distaff side will not regard a theory I'm about to repeat as male shauvenist piggery, but as I ~~am~~ have become aware of the years (when I saw you I was still oblivious to them) and as I do not get to do the physical things I know I should and then I feel it, I think. My thought is that nature intended the male to lead a vigorous physical life. More, when he does not, his intellectual acuity suffers. Mind and body, and male's body has its own needs. Exercise. Not calisthenics.

You would get a laugh to see this Paul unyan at it! My immediate need was for some stout and fairly straight locusts to use to repair a wier (small dam, city feller) the thoughtful county broke and hasn't repaired. It supplies water to our pond and we have tame wild fish in it. Armed with my trusty 15" pruning saw, a machete and a worn-out ax, I have taken two down. Locust is a hard, durable wood. The second one was a good 75' tall. It hung in a cluster of maples, binding it at the butt end against the stump. It was cut free but who can move all that weight?

Well, I finally realized the friend who could. Archimedes! So, I trimmed out a post-length branch about 5" thick, used the stump as the fulcrum, and believe it or not, all alone, with only my 60 years to help, I walked that damn thing right out of the maples! Exultant, I then trimmed more out because I was enjoying it and because it has to be done, so I'm tired, too.

I don't know the kind of life you lead, but if you do not walk, I strongly recommend a brisk one, enough to make the lungs and heart work and tire the legs if they are not used. Good thinking time. I can get an all-news radio station in Washington and I can ignore what does not interest me, so I walk with hearadio, mace from the bad dogs, and think. Thinking is easier away from the typewriter, where there is so much to get on paper. You won't have the scenery I have, but the walk is good anyway.

St. John (his son's name) is one of Hunt's pen names. He is his own hero. He lives vicariously as the cheap heroes of his cheap novels, never realize they are tawdry, shallow characters because he really does consider himself a deep thinker. I will have much and much not published on him when I work my way to him and that of which he is part in my book, which is more than officialdom indicates.

You are an expert and I'm not, so I hesitate to dispute even part of your analysis. Until he testified I feared what you fear. As I watched him and paid close attention to the actual words, I got the very strong impression that he is depressed but also that he has an "operative" deal with our Glorious Leader, NOT the CIA. He covered both much more than was realized but he also pulled the plug on one area of CIA work that was promptly covered up.

His last novel, Berlin Ending, has Willy Brandt as the Russians' top agent in Western Europe. I have had access to the galley of his immature, dishonest and incomplete rewriting of The Day of Pigs (Give Us This Day). Incredibly bad stuff and incredibly bad spooking from his own definition. Tad Szulc has a biography of him coming out (The Compulsive Spy) I suspect it will serve CIA interests and that they fed Szulc. From what I observed not in Szulc's reporting before he retired from the NYTimes and in a Sunday mag. piece he wrote I figured he had to be with the Agency in some way. Reading his Day of Pigs and Dominican books persuades me of the accuracy of my analysis. Complicated business but bratifying when it works out.

LBJ pulled a couple of good ones about Ford. Yours is accurate. It describes him well and is the best credentials he has now.... You are perceptive on the Congress but optimistic about the Supreme Court in particular and any in general unless you are an ultra in the south. Those once good are almost all now terrified. I've been having my experiences in Freedom of Information suits I've filed... Bed time. Best,